



EXHIBIT 4  
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**Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow, Inc.**

3333 2nd Avenue North, Suite 100 • Billings, MT 59101

Rep. XXXX  
Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Attention to Appropriations Committee Members:

My name is Reanne Tangedal. I am writing to express my ongoing support for the Medicaid By-in bill. I am legally blind and am working full time at this point. I do not have benefits through the agency where I am employed, so keeping my Medicaid benefits is important and critical to me. I urge the committee to vote "yes" to this bill, as it will allow people with disabilities the opportunity to go to work and maintain benefits. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Reanne Y. Tangedal

*Reanne Y. Tangedal*

**March 30, 2009**

**Proponents of the Medicaid Buy-In**

My name is Andrea Dahl. I am a long time resident of Missoula. I grew up in a household with two working parents who had strong values in both family and work. As an adult with a disability I worked hard raising my children. I also had to depend on SSI and Medicaid because of a history of seizures. When my youngest was in school I decided to look into employment because my seizures were maintained with medication. With part-time jobs providing personal care I was able to continue receiving Medicaid benefits. I reached a point where my income was just dollars more than Medicaid would allow. As a result I was cut off of all my benefits. I went through five years with no medical coverage. I had to have prescription medications and check-ups to maintain my disability so that I could work. And then there was an emergency surgery followed by a three week hospital stay that left me unemployed. I was left with the hospital bill and no income or insurance to pay for it.

A Medicaid Buy-In program would have relieved me of bills I could not pay. My experience as an uninsured citizen was a frightening one and I don't want to see others go through a similar situation.

- A Buy- In would allow more people with disabilities to be able to work full time and pay taxes.
- A Buy-In would provide an affordable premium that private or group insurance does not have.
- A Buy-In will help more people to become less dependent on or even free of any public assistance programs such as food stamps and Section 8 housing assistance.
- A Buy-In will help reduce the number of consumers who rely on SSI or SSDI as their income source. This would reduce the poverty level in our state.
- A Buy-In will provide the basic healthcare needs that might otherwise keep the consumer out of the workforce.

Employment has many rewards for people with disabilities. They become a valuable part of their community. They find the many rewards of being a self-supporting citizen. They will be able to have pride in their accomplishments. I returned to school to study Social Work so that I can help others with disabilities reach these goals. A Medicaid Buy-In is what is needed so that more will be able to reach their own goals.

Andrea Dahl  
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Missoula, MT 59801  
406-721-2021  
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March 31, 2009

To the 2009 Montana House Appropriations Committee Members:

I am Troy Van Horn and I am writing in support of the Medicaid Buy In SB 119.

I was born and raised in Conrad and moved to Great Falls in my Senior year of high school. I have always enjoyed art and music. I worked on improving my car stereo and learned a lot about sound systems on my own. After HS graduation I moved to Seattle in 2000 and went to college at the Art Institute. I graduated with an associate of applicable arts degree in audio production. I worked my way through college as a Barista at different coffee shops such as Starbucks, although my favorite coffee is Seattle's Best Coffee! I also worked at the Moore Theater as a sound person for events on that stage. In 2003, I moved to Las Angeles to get into the industry "where it was most active." As you can see I have a high work ethic and had never been without a job. During my previous working career I started out with a salary at \$7.70 plus tips in Seattle to \$18/hour at Baby Gap in LA. I know Baby Gap, what was he thinking? It was during the time when people were spending \$600 for their children in one shopping spree!

Three months after I moved to LA, I was going to work and wasn't feeling very well. I won't go into all the details but I had an AVM burst and it bled into my brain. Although I got to the hospital quickly the left side of my body is affected and I was released 6 weeks later. I did not have health insurance and the bill was almost a half a million dollars. I need medication to maintain my seizures, muscle spasms and depression. I qualified for Medicaid and currently have a Medicaid spend down because of my combined income from Social Security Income and Social Security Disability of \$760/month. At first I lived in a nursing home in Great Falls, and then I participated in rehabilitation through the Bridges Program in Missoula. I work with a case manager through the Home and Community Based Services Program. I currently live in an assisted living home, but want to move out to an apartment of my own. Here I am, five years later working with programs called Vocational Rehabilitation and JOBS to apply for work in my experience area. Although finding work in this current economy with a disability is tough, I am a great one handed coffee maker and I can operate a sound system for events!

If I go to work now there are guidelines with Social Security Disability Income, Medicaid and my housing that will be affected financially. I understand that with the Medicaid Buy In, I could at least keep my Medicaid health insurance until I make 250 % more than poverty level. I receive around \$760/month from a combination of Social Security Disability Income and Social Security Income. My experience with small business work is that most of them can not afford health insurance. Even if they did have this benefit, I will not qualify for coverage through employment with this pre-existing diagnosis. Maintaining Heath Insurance is very important to me.

I hope that you will consider supporting the Medicaid Buy In so that when I am hired I can return to becoming a productive working citizen. That is how I was brought up and that is my goal today.

Sincerely,

Troy Van Horn, 2406 Riverroad, Missoula, MT 59804